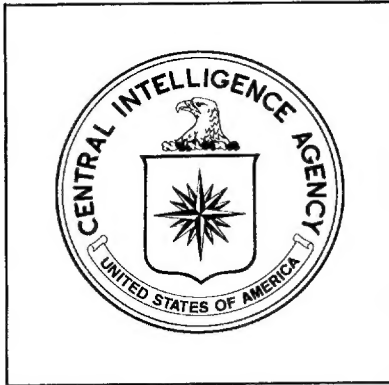


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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the USSR - Eastern Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Yugoslav Premier in Moscow

Premier Bijedic arrived in Moscow on Wednesday for a seven-day visit. This is the second leg of a tour of the US, Soviet, and Chinese capitals, which is tailored to demonstrate Yugoslavia's desire to stake a balance among the super powers.

Tito's stinging attack last week on the Soviet version of how the Red Army won the war set off a chain of reactions in Yugoslavia that threatened to sour the atmosphere for Bijedic's Moscow stop. On the eve of Bijedic's departure, for instance, protests over the Soviets' historical "distortions" by Yugoslav veterans groups were still being published. At the same time, however, the news media have, somewhat awkwardly, cranked out the usual propaganda on the eve of any official state visit.

The only noticeable new wrinkle is a more assertive stand on the standards of equality, non-interference in internal affairs, and "strict respect for national sovereignty and integrity." Only one well-known commentator has directly linked the protests and the visits. Milika Sundic of Zagreb Radio on Tuesday mentioned "unwanted conflicts and polemics" and specifically cited conflicting Yugoslav-Soviet versions of the history of the second world war. He predicted that "such misunderstandings will, in all likelihood, recur and so will our replies."

The Soviets have apparently chosen to ignore the current squabble. An *Izvestiya* commentary on Tuesday reviewed relations since the Tito-Brezhnev rapprochement of September 1971 and condemned Western newspapers for trying to split Belgrade and Moscow by spreading rumors. The press release claimed that these "slanders" were receiving a "deserved rebuff" in both the USSR and Yugoslavia.

Bijedic's talks will apparently center on economic cooperation and trade. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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Bulgaria: Zhivkov Lectures on
Good-Neighborly Relations

Party boss Zhivkov has come up with his first commentary on Balkan affairs since Belgrade launched its current round of polemics on the Macedonian issue. Zhivkov's remarks--made in a recent interview with a Greek journalist--serve two purposes: they restate Bulgaria's satisfaction with its relations with the new Greek government, and they put Belgrade on notice that Yugoslavia is clearly out of step with Sofia's view of Balkan cooperation.

Commenting on relations with Athens, Zhivkov stressed that good will, realism, and lack of outstanding differences contribute to the "atmosphere of increasing trust." In almost effusive terms, he said he was particularly pleased that Premier Karamanlis will visit Sofia sometime this year, and indicated that he would personally participate in the talks. Zhivkov also gave extremely enthusiastic treatment to what he called "untapped possibilities for expanded bilateral economic cooperation."

Moving on to regional Balkan matters--long a favorite theme with Sofia--Zhivkov again proclaimed Bulgaria's policy of neighborliness and cooperation with all the Balkan states. He said that his country has no territorial claims against any of our neighbors (read, the Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), and added that Bulgaria has "absolutely no problem either with its neighbors or with other peoples."

Zhivkov's call for closer Bulgarian-Greek relations has already caused the Yugoslavs concern. Equally important, Belgrade has been irritated by Sofia's refusal to recognize the existence of the Macedonian minority living in Bulgaria. Zhivkov's patronizing tone and his assertion that all Balkan peoples have discarded their historical differences in favor of Balkan cooperation suggest that Belgrade has not kept up with the changing times. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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East Germany Blasts the US
on Baby Lift from Vietnam

Neues Deutschland, the authoritative East German party daily, has picked up the Vietnamese Communist line and harshly criticized the US role in "Operation Baby Lift" in South Vietnam. Pankow's propaganda is the sharpest anti-US invective since East German - US diplomatic relations were established last fall.

The vituperative commentary published in various media, including the party daily, made the following points:

- "Operation Baby Lift is a cold-blooded kidnaping of Vietnamese children--in many cases they are not even orphans--who are shipped like a commodity to the United States, where they are to be sold and may be passed around like an exotic sort of lap dog."
- "President Ford, himself, contributed to the publicity campaign which seeks to denigrate the liberation struggle waged by the South Vietnamese patriots by presenting the first of these lap dogs."
- "This macabre show of sanctimoniousness is met by indignation and disgust on the part of a world which cannot understand the sudden care for Vietnamese children from hard-boiled profiteers after American GIs and the inhuman Thieu

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soldiers had for years, in a
ruthless and bestial manner,
beaten to death with rifle
butts, disemboweled, decapi-
tated or maimed defenseless
children."

The extensive and heavy-handed East German
commentary stands in sharp contrast to the sparse
and low-key coverage contained in other East Euro-
pean media. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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